

# EMILY J. POTRATZ

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## Core Competencies

**Experience:** 10+ years working in research, data analysis, writing, and project management

**Communication:** Able to disseminate technical analyses and results to all levels of collaborators and audiences; committed to accessible and effective communication through visualization and technology

**Skills and Tools:** R, Markdown, Python, Qualtrics, enzyme immunoassays, 16S DNA sequencing and bioinformatics, statistical analyses, and website design

## Research and Professional Experience

**Graduate Researcher** *University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL* 2015 – 2023

- Designed and managed quantitative and qualitative interdisciplinary research projects to monitor biodiversity, through collaboration with government and non-profit natural resource managers.
- Developed strong oral and written communication: 5 peer-reviewed publications, 6 research presentations, and 3 invited seminars at national and international agencies.
- Acquired over \$35,000 of research funding from private and public granting sources; delivered reports on budgets, project success, and data driven management recommendations.

**Research Associate** *Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, IL* 2015 – 2020

- Conducted literature reviews and gathered background research for conservation proposals.
- Trained and supervised new associates and interns on lab protocols and data interpretation; performed observational methods to map and optimize workflow of specific tasks.

## Teaching and Leadership Experience

**Biology Diversity Committee Founder** *University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL* 2020 – 2023

- Co-authored department's action plans and initiatives to meet university-wide goals of advancing racial equity and overall campus diversity.
- Designed and managed website with content regarding inclusive and accessible teaching strategies and self-education about diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice in biology and education.
- Evaluated the status of the committee through departmental surveys and interviews, identifying current challenges and goals in cultivating an inclusive culture within the department and solutions.

**Teaching Assistant and Instructor of Record** *University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL* 2015 – 2023

- Led discussion, lecture, and lab sections for Biology of Cells and Organisms, Biology of Populations and Communities, Genetics Lab, Ecology and Evolution Lab, and Microbiology.
- Directed and graded assessments, created review and study resources, and supported student academic and personal development which led to winning two university teaching awards.

**Science in Society Mentor** *Northwestern University, Chicago, IL* 2016 – 2020

- Advised Chicago Public School 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders participating in weekly afterschool science club.
- Taught science curriculum and guided student-led science projects with students ultimately performing up to 30% higher in STEM skills such as experimental design and data analysis.

## Education

**Ph.D.** University of Illinois Chicago, Biological Sciences – Ecology and Evolution 2015 – 2023

**Certificate** in Foundations of College Instruction, University of Illinois Chicago 2019 – 2021

**B.S.** Purdue University, Animal Sciences – Behavior and Well-being 2008 – 2012